

THE MENACE

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By the Editor

I HAVE NOT been well enough to prepare for this week's paper a promised synopsis of the talk I gave to the convention on Sunday afternoon.

What I said was mostly in illustration of what takes place in the departments and editorial rooms of a national paper like THE MENACE.

My personal relations to the paper during the past eight years have, of necessity, been obscured; and it is enough for me that I have the confidence and love of so large a constituency.

To be rich in friendships, made perfect by participation in the toil and discipline incident to opposing the Roman Catholic political machine, is to be rich indeed. I can take such riches with me when I pass onward into "the camp of the immortals."

The only thing I covet is a place to serve the great cause, whether it be as fireman shoveling coal, as track Walker keeping the main line clear of Jesuits, politicians, Knights of Columbus and false friends, or as David with his sling, THE MENACE, hitting the giant between the eyes, or as a flag bearer calling the soldiers of freedom to the colors.

May that service be such that when I die men may know not so much about when or where or how I have done my bit, but how well and true and faithful I have been to the cause. And so I utter the prayer of Elizabeth Farnham in *Scribners*:

Make Thou me strong, O Lord!
Not for the victor's wreathed crown,
Not for the glory and renown
But in the hour of grim defeat
That comes upon the battle's heat—
Bless Thou my blunted sword!

Make Thou me strong, O Lord!
Not for the council's highest seat,
But, mingling in the crowded street,
To speak, with yonder lowly man
As with a brother, of Thy plan—
Bless Thou my humble sword!

Make Thou me strong, O Lord!
Not to be first upon that way
Where hungry millions tread their day,
But if, at eve, when courage pales
My step shall guide some fool that fails—
Thine be the path I trod!

Yours faithfully ON THE MAIN LINE,

The Editor

The Big Four Begins

RETAIL MERCHANTS throughout the United States would do well to take notice of the pope's Big Four who have assumed to direct reconstruction in the United States according to papal plans. They are the executive committee of the National Catholic War Council who are proceeding to spend the millions contributed by the American public for war relief.

Get acquainted with the personnel of the Big Four, for you will hear much of them in the near future. They are Peter J. Muldoon, bishop of Rockford, Ill.; Joseph F. Glass, bishop of Salt Lake City; Joseph Schrembs, bishop of Toledo; and William T. Russell, bishop of Charleston.

What these four worthies of the papal hierarchy may attempt or accomplish while their war chest lasts is one of the secrets belonging to Cardinal Gibbons' recent convention of bishops and archbishops; but they have begun operations by means of a large double-column display advertisement in the Buffalo (N. Y.) *Evening News*.

Rome has attacked many American newspapers and public institutions in its attempt to make America Catholic, but its latest attempt is to start a class war on retail merchants. The Big Four leads the van with a demagogic appeal to popular prejudice. The high cost of living is a reality and a problem which can be solved only in the spirit of fairness to all parties concerned; but the Big Four have other fish to fry. They belong to the same cult that imported DeValera to stir up post-war trouble, and to the same class that recently plunged the city of Boston into a brief but bloody reign of terror. They are very "religious" to be sure; but what has legitimate religion to do with merchandising?

The opening attack in the advertisement referred to is headed: "How to Reduce the Cost of Living." Heretofore the spokesmen of popery have taken the then popular view that everybody would be happy and supplied with plenty if only the improvident workingman would work faithfully and spend sparingly. It was the wasteful and thriftless workingman who was to blame for any shortage of prosperity. But that whangdoodle is worn to tatters.

Workingmen are now so well organized that even the papal corporation finds it impolitic to load them with the sins of the world, and the Big Four have found another scapegoat. The "middleman" is now the goat. It is an idea that is popular with short thinkers and long imaginations. The retail merchant rests under popular suspicion, so Rome hurls its anathemas at him on the principle that it is safer to wax heroic over one who is hard beset than against one who is organized to strike back effectively.

The Big Four advises the public, in its large advertisement, to establish co-operative stores, thus stealing thunder from the Socialists whom it condemns; but the dishonest part of the papist plea and preaching is its attempt to create the impression that retail dealers are responsible for high prices.

Now, there is not an economist or man of affairs in his country who does not know that the retail merchants are the farthest from any class of exercising anything like a monopoly. There is more real, genuine, free competition among small storekeepers than among any other class of buyers and sellers. Why co-operate to fight and leave the real monopolists who make the high prices to keep on trimming both merchant and consumer?

Listen: The workers are organized to take care of themselves; the wholesalers are organized to take care of themselves; the manufacturers are organized to take care of their interests; and the men who deal in money are better organized than any with the papal corporation as a working partner. The retail merchant is the one whose number is legion but who stands perpetually at the mercy of public opinion on one side and of those from whom he buys on the other side.

And Rome, the greatest commercial as well as political corporation on earth, has suddenly become Socialistic enough to organize the buying public so the consumers, so organized, may go by their local merchants and spend their money with the manufacturers and wholesalers who are the real monopolists and source of high prices.

Is it not about time for the retailers to wake up and take notice? If they have no patriotic motive for checking the inroads of Rome, they certainly have the selfish motive of self-defense to inquire why it is that an alleged church, which pretends to busy itself with the salvation of souls, wishes to upset the established methods of distributing commodities. To quote from the Big Four's advertisement:

More important and more effective than any government regulation of prices would be the establishment of co-operative stores. The enormous toll taken from industry by the various classes of middlemen is now fully realized. The astonishing difference between the price received by the producer and that paid by the consumer has become a scandal to our industrial system.

The obvious and direct means of reducing this discrepancy and abolishing unnecessary middlemen is the operation of retail and wholesale mercantile concerns under the ownership and management of the consumers.

If the foregoing argument were followed to its logical conclusion it would result in nothing more or less than an argument for Socialism. If co-operative stores are desirable for purposes of distribution, then co-operative factories are equally desirable for purposes of manufacture. If consumers should own and manage the retail stocks of groceries, hardware, dry goods, etc., how can they get the desired result of keeping down high prices at their source if they do not also own and manage the place where commodities are made or prepared for market?

And what is the necessary outcome of general co-operation by the Co-operative Commonwealth or Socialist Republic or Industrial Democracy which Socialists advocate? But, do not assume from this that popery is earnestly advocating Socialism. Popery is merely borrowing Socialistic argument to create confusion and perpetuate it to the disorganization of civilization.

Suppose we apply some of this Big Four bunc to organized religion. If middlemen are such monstrosities and so unnecessary to commerce, how about the middlemen of religion? How about the middlemen of the alleged church and pretended religion which popery represents? How about the horde of monks, priests, bishops, et al., who intervene between man and divinity? What if the Roman Catholic consumers of papal "religion" were to take over the ownership and management of the papal system? If the "mud-sills" of society are endowed with the wisdom to buy and sell are they not also competent to pray and worship? But consider the following argument from that same remarkable document:

Very few serious efforts of this kind have been made in this country because our people have not felt the need of these co-operative enterprises as keenly as the European working classes, and because we have been too impatient and too individualistic to make the necessary sacrifices and to be content with moderate benefits and gradual progress. Nevertheless, our superior energy, initiative and commercial capacity will enable us, once we set about the task earnestly, even to surpass what has been done in England and Scotland.

When the working classes have learned to make the sacrifices, and to exercise the patience required by the ownership and operation of co-operative stores, they will be equipped to undertake a great variety of tasks and projects which benefit the community immediately, and all its constituent members ultimately.

It is quite true that the kind of co-operation advocated by the Big Four has not found favor in this country because we have done fairly well without it. But it has reached a considerable degree of perfection in England and Scotland. Therefore, England should be on the highway to contentment at this time. Its community and co-operative enterprises are the result of sacrifices which Englishmen made but which Americans have refused to endure. But is England any happier or contented than America? Practically all its transportation is at this writing tied up by a tremendous strike of workingmen. Co-operative stores have not solved the problem in England any more than here. The sacrifice of English workingmen to accumulate through co-operation has no doubt enriched some of them, but its social effect is zero.

How familiar is this exhortation for "the working class" to "make the sacrifices" and "to exercise the patience," etc., etc. It has been the advice of big-wigs from the beginning. Co-operation is a great thing and worthy of practice as well as consideration, but when some over-fed representatives begin to preach its desirability as a means of further sacrifice, why not look further for some scheme that gives some promise of immediate relief from

injustice and a better promise for the future than co-operative stores have given to England?

The world is in an uproar, and the pope's agents are using Sinn Feinism as a means of continuing the confusion. Other of the pope's agents offer themselves and their schemes as doctors and medicine for all the ills that humanity has inherited from the past. The plain, unvarnished truth is that these doctors are worse than quacks, for they know what they are doing. It is part of their plan to make Americans so dissatisfied with everything in existence as to accept advice from the oldest, wealthiest, and most persistent enemy of modern civilization.

Just what use the Big Four will ultimately make of the discontent they are spending public money to create is a matter that will reveal itself in due time. In the meantime the situation calls for the exercise of brains. Popery is on the verge of putting over something big if human judgment can be so confused as to admit of Roman Catholic ecclesiastical leadership.

We submit to the candid judgment of our readers that a clique of Roman Catholic bishops are more out of place than ever when they assume to advise concerning a reconstruction of retail business in the United States. If it was ever advisable for shoemakers to stick to their lasts, it is now more important that these agents of the discredited pope should stick to their mummeries and leave the reconstruction of America to Americans whose allegiance and interest are not divided with a foreign potentate. The business of America is none of the Big Four's business.

Ex-Monk Erickson Goes East

Ex-Monk E. M. Erickson, who has lived the great convention and has stirred Aurora and vicinity with his wonderful lectures, will open a two week's engagement in Old Ashbury Church, Wilmington, Delaware, on Nov. 15. He will also begin a two weeks' engagement in the M. E. church at Goshen, New York about Nov. 2.

No reader of this paper should neglect an opportunity to hear Erickson preach Protestantism in its fullness. His daring and courage recall that other Erickson from the far north—the man who actually discovered North America hundreds of years before the papist slave-trader, Christopher Columbus, brought Spanish superstition to Central America.

One remarkable thing about the ex-monk is that Roman roughnecks never make a success of their attempts to break up his meetings. It is not because they would not like to, but because Erickson is absolutely fearless and of such spiritual as well as physical strength that the cowardly ruffians dare not resort to their usual exhibit of "muscular Christianity."

The local priest and his dupes, at a village near Aurora, tried to frighten people away from his meetings, but neither that nor their threats to make trouble had the intended effect. The priest's house in Verona is directly opposite the Christian church in which Erickson was speaking after word had gone forth that he would be man-handled if he persisted in exposing Rome's rottenness.

The church windows and doors were open, the building was brilliantly lighted, and the priest's house, across the way, was unlighted and had the appearance of being deserted; but, when the meeting was well under way a passing automobile happened to so direct its lights as to reveal the pope's priestly agent sitting at his own window listening intently to the prohibited lecture.

After that, it is needless to say, "his reverence" got the full benefit of the discourse, for Erickson

has a voice that will carry a mile in any climate. The people of Wilmington and Goshen have a treat coming their way, and they should make the most of it.

Masonic Rosters Wanted

We should like to obtain the names and addresses of every Freemason in the United States with the least possible delay. Persons who can do so are therefore requested to mail rosters of Masonic lodges to the office of THE MENACE as soon as they can. Friends of the movement are urged to give this matter immediate attention as it is of the utmost importance.

Thos. E. Watson's Speech

We have received numerous requests that the famous birthday address of Thos. E. Watson be published in THE MENACE, and Mr. Watson has kindly granted permission for us to use it; but limited space precludes the possibility of printing it in the near future.

For that reason we are pleased to announce that this great speech has been printed by Mr. Watson in pamphlet form and may be obtained from him at the rate of ten cents a copy. Address Thos. E. Watson, Thomson, Ga.

Statement of Ownership

Statement of the ownership, management, etc. of THE MENACE, published weekly at Aurora, Mo., as required by the act of congress of August 24, 1912.

Editor, Theo. C. Walker; managing editor, Theo. C. Walker; business manager, Billy Parker; publisher, Menace Publishing Company; post office address of each, Aurora, Mo.

Owner, Free Press Defense League; president, G. O. Nations, 52 Bliss Bldg., Washington, D. C.; vice-president, Theo. C. Walker, Aurora, Mo.; secretary-treasurer, Billy Parker, Aurora, Mo.

Known bondholders, mortgages, and other security holders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities—none.

BILLY PARKER, Business Manager. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of September, 1919.

W. H. BOARK, Notary Public. (My commission expires May 23, 1923.)

ORGANIZATION NEWS

Address all letters about organization to Box 76, Aurora, Mo.

GET BUSY

PATRIOTS BEWARE

of the would-be patriot who was invited to the convention to prove his charges, and was too cowardly to come and now continues his dirty game by word and writing. Demand him to prove his statements, even suppose he runs a paper.

We are making ready for the launching of those many and necessary campaigns which the convention so heartily endorsed and asked us to put into execution.

Those of you who were here in September have some idea of what it means when our office force concentrates on these things preparatory to launching a campaign and we give you this advance word that you may be preparing to do your part of the work. THE MENACE with its various departments and every reader, in proportion as he is active, are parts of a vast engine that must be set in motion and started out on the track laid down

for us to follow. We must all work together and keep at it to the finish.

We are preparing now to start the Lyceum workers in November. We direct attention to the advertisement carried herewith and ask you to take action at once.

We are also preparing to launch

the big propaganda campaign which includes the circulation of an additional million copies of THE MENACE weekly, (all paid), the distribution of 52,000,000 leaflets before election day in 1920 and the engagement of seventy-five field workers; some preparing the way for lectures, others lecturing; and others following the work, helping to organize and aiding organizations taking an active part in the work.

To do this work most effectively we must not only use the organizations of I. O. B. and W. O. B. already in the field but vast numbers of new organizations must be created. It is vital to the success of any big result-getting campaign that we be organized for action. That is one of the reasons why it became absolutely necessary for us to enter the organization field. One thousand lodges ought to be instituted just as quickly as it is possible to bring them into being. There is only one way to create so many lodges in so short a time—that is for every man and woman who is interested in the success of this cause to become attached to the organization in some definite way.

For those who live in towns where there is no lodge of the I. O. B. or W. O. B. we have the Universal lodge in which they can hold their membership until state and local lodges become better mediums through which to act. With membership in the Universal lodge goes suggestions and information as to how to interest others and instructions on the institution of lodge. Those who are really interested will be delighted with our special inducement for the balance of this year. There are five thousand cities and towns in which we have readers who could organize a lodge without great difficulty. All that is needed is to get posted and make a start. Where lodges are formed in this manner organization is really easier to accomplish for three fifths of the cost is saved.

For your own good and the good of the cause you should take up this work. It is much better to work with several friends than it is to work alone. There is always more encouragement and pep in the work—an enlivening community of interest that brings better results. You know these things and should no longer stand in the way of your own welfare until you at least have made an effort to organize in your community.

There is not the slightest doubt but that the people who were at the convention will do all in their power to bring new organizations into being. They came, saw, heard and know that we are going to tackle a big job and that everybody must get busy. It is no child's play to tackle the problems that confront us for 1920, we can't win by waiting for others to do it. You who have been wanting to see Rome whipped and whipped hard now have a chance to take hold of the handle. Popery is going to get the same that it received in France, Italy and other nations if you non-Catholics will show one half the spirit and vim that characterized those Catholic nations which could no longer stand the pope's dictation in affairs political.

If you want to get into the fight and do your part, write us at once. If you are able to produce proof of your eligibility to membership in the I. O. B. or W. O. B. nothing shall keep you out of the lodge, if you are ready to help get others, everything possible will be done to make the task easy and pleasant. Just address your inquiry to Box 76, Aurora, Mo., and we will see that your wants are promptly looked after.

Those wishing to join the I. O. B. in Cincinnati, Ohio, should address P. O. Box 532, that town.

If you are interested and wish to ally yourself with our patriotic organization in Los Angeles, Cal., send your name and address with two references to P. O. Box No. 1682, Los Angeles.

Anyone wishing information of the I. O. B. in Cleveland, Ohio, can write to Lincoln Lodge, Geyere Hall, Lorain Ave., and West 85th St., Cleveland, Ohio.

I WANT TO HELP

FREE PRESS DEFENSE LEAGUE, Lock Box 76, Aurora, Mo.

Gentlemen: How can my lodge get into the I. O. B.? How can I help to organize in my community? How can I become a member of the Order?

Enclosed find \$_____ to be used in organization work in my state.

Mr. _____

Mrs. _____

Miss. _____

No. _____ St. or RFD _____ State _____